



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5180

LCO No. 585

* _____HB05180GAE____030804_____*

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2005*) (a) Not later than October
2 first in each year in which a state election, as defined in section 9-1 of
3 the general statutes, is to be held, the Secretary of the State, in
4 consultation with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, shall
5 prepare a voter guide for such state election and shall publish such
6 voter guide on the Internet.

7 (b) The voter guide shall contain:

8 (1) A photograph, biographical information and contact information
9 submitted by each candidate (A) who is nominated or qualifies as a
10 petitioning candidate for election to the office of President of the
11 United States, Vice-President of the United States, senator in Congress,
12 representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
13 General, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State, State
14 Senator or State Representative at the state election, and (B) who pays
15 a twenty-five-dollar fee to the Secretary of the State for the purposes of

16 this section;

17 (2) The following three maps produced pursuant to the most recent
18 decennial reapportionment of General Assembly and Connecticut
19 congressional districts: One map showing the boundaries of state
20 senatorial districts, one map showing the boundaries of state house of
21 representatives districts and one map showing the boundaries of state
22 congressional districts;

23 (3) A description of each office to be filled at the state election;

24 (4) An absentee ballot application in printable format;

25 (5) Instructions regarding voting by absentee ballot;

26 (6) Information on the procedure for registering to vote;

27 (7) A voter registration application in printable format;

28 (8) The full text of each proposed constitutional amendment that
29 will appear on the ballot at the state election; and

30 (9) The explanatory text as to the content and purpose of each such
31 proposed constitutional amendment, which is prepared by the Office
32 of Legislative Research pursuant to section 2-30a of the general
33 statutes.

34 (c) Not later than one week after the date on which nominating
35 primaries are required to be held under section 9-423 of the general
36 statutes, as amended, for offices to be filled at a state election, each
37 candidate described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section
38 may file with the Secretary of the State one photograph of the
39 candidate, biographical information and contact information. In the
40 case of a candidate for the office of President of the United States, Vice-
41 President of the United States, senator in Congress or representative in
42 Congress, the state central committee of the candidate's political party
43 may file such photograph, biographical information and contact

44 information on behalf of the candidate. Each filing under this
45 subsection shall be on an electronic medium that the Secretary of the
46 State, in consultation with the State Elections Enforcement
47 Commission, shall prescribe. No candidate or state central committee
48 may change, add to or delete any photograph, biographical
49 information or contact information filed with the Secretary of the State
50 under this section, unless such deletion is to effectuate a complete
51 withdrawal of the candidate's photograph, biographical information
52 and contact information from the Internet voter guide for the year in
53 which the state election is being held.

54 (d) Each such candidate shall have the equivalent of one printed
55 page of space in the Internet voter guide for such photograph,
56 biographical information and contact information. Each such
57 candidate's page shall contain the statement, "Photograph,
58 Biographical Information and Contact Information Provided by the
59 Candidate". Each candidate's biographical information shall consist of
60 not more than one hundred fifty words. All photographs of candidates
61 in the voter guide shall be black and white, of uniform size as
62 prescribed by the Secretary of the State, and shall have been taken
63 within two years of the year of the state election.

64 (e) The Secretary of the State, in consultation with the State Elections
65 Enforcement Commission, may adopt regulations, in accordance with
66 the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
67 purposes of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2005</i>

GAE ***Joint Favorable***